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demonstrated that this method of entertainment, by bringing all of the members together under conditions permitting of informal discussion and exchange of ideas, adds greatly to the pleasure and value of the meeting.

JOSEPH ERLANGER,
Acting Secretary

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY MEDICAL SCHOOL

THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN GEOGRAPHERS

THE Association of American Geographers held its ninth annual meeting at New Haven, Connecticut, December 27-28, 1912. The sessions were held in Lampson Hall, Yale University, and an informal meeting took place Friday evening at the Graduates' Club. In the absence of the president (Professor Salisbury), Mr. M. R. Campbell, the first vice-president, presided. About thirty members attended.

It is gratifying to the members to see the increasing number of papers on anthropogeography, regional geography, and climatology that deal with human relations, a feature less prominent in the earlier programs of the association. Seven purely physiographic papers were presented out of a total of sixteen. Great interest is manifested in the *Annals* of the association since the appearance of the first volume during the past year. The publication committee has performed a distinct service to geographic science in securing papers of high quality and a volume of excellent appearance.

The newly-elected officers for 1913 are as follows:

President—Henry G. Bryant.

First Vice-president—Ellsworth Huntington.

Second Vice-president—Charles C. Adams.

Secretary—A. P. Brigham.

Treasurer—F. E. Matthes.

Councillor (for three years)—R. DeC. Ward.

The publication committee appointed for two years (1913 and 1914) consists of R. E. Dodge, editor, and Alfred H. Brooks, H. E. Gregory and H. H. Barrows.

ISAIAH BOWMAN,
*Acting Secretary, Session
of December, 1912*

THE CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERS

THE sixth annual convention of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers was held at the Great Northern Hotel, Chicago, December 26, 27

and 28. The attendance of members was very good, but the noticeable feature this year was the unusually large number present of manufacturers, designers, etc. This is very encouraging to the officers and shows that the work of the society is being kept practical enough to interest the commercial man.

Thursday afternoon was devoted largely to general agricultural machinery interests. Mr. Sjogren, of the University of Nebraska, presented a paper on "Tests of Corn Planters," which gave the results of a series of tests run on accuracy of drop. Professor C. A. Ocock, of the University of Wisconsin, in his paper on "Draft of the Plow," showed by tables and curves, the variations in the draft of a plow as affected by width, depth, type of moldboard and condition of soil. In the paper on "Isolated Gas-lighting Plants" Mr. Eugene Becker, of the Atlantic Blau-Gas Company, described the different systems using gasoline gas, acetylene and Blaugas, with the advantages and disadvantages of each. Admixture of a certain proportion of air made either of these gases explosive, either a richer or leaner mixture being non-explosive: gasoline—2 per cent. to 5 per cent. by volume of gasoline vapor—98 per cent. to 95 per cent. air; acetylene—2 per cent. to 49 per cent. by volume acetylene—98 per cent. to 51 per cent. air; Blaugas—4 per cent. to 8 per cent. by volume Blaugas—96 per cent. to 92 per cent. air. Thus acetylene has a very wide explosive range, Blaugas next, and gasoline least. On the point of quality of light, acetylene is the best, but for convenience and safety Blaugas was probably most satisfactory.

Friday was devoted to the tractor and standardization questions. In his paper on "Testing of Gas Tractors" L. W. Chase, of the University of Nebraska, reviewed the results secured through the Winnipeg Motor Contests. C. F. Hirschfeld, of Cornell University, in a paper on "Principles of Fuel Oil Engines" explained the matter of carburetion of various fuel oils, the principles and chemistry of their combustion and the difficulties met in adapting them as fuels for internal combustion engines. E. H. Ehrman, of the Chicago Screw Company, in his paper on "The Standardization Work of the Society of Automobile Engineers," gave the society an account of the methods and guiding principles for the standardization work of his society. The influence of standardization in cheapening production and repairs and in keeping down monopoly was brought out in